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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, PINS, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS ANNOUNCES ARRIVAL OF DOJ INVESTIGATORS
REF: A) SEOUL 8433 (DTG 050918Z OCT 77), B) SEOUL 8382 (DTG 040848Z OCT 77)
SUMMARY: AFTERNOON PRESS BREAKS STORY THAT TWO DOJ INVESTIGATORS WILL COME TO KOREA NEXT WEEK, WITH TWO OF FIVE PAPERS RIGHT ON THE MARK WITH "OCTOBER 15". SOME SPECULATION OF DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON TERMS FOR INTEROGATION. END SUMMARY.
1. ALL AFTERNOON VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS OCTOBER 6 CARRY SMALL, LOCAL, FRONT-PAGE STORIES ANNOUNCING US INVESTIGATORS FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), HEADED BY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BENJAMIN CIVILETTI, WILL ARRIVE IN KOREA SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. GOVERNMENT SEOUL SINMUN. STATING DOJ INVESTIGATORS WILL ARRIVE "AROUND OCTOBER 15" AND STAY FOR 3-4 DAYS. QUOTES A "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER"
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AS STATING US MAY AT FIRST SUGGEST TAKING PAK TONG-SON TO US FOR INVESTIGATION, IN WHICH CASE CONSULTATIONS "WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY SMOOTH". SAME SOURCE IS ALSO QUOTED AS PREDICTING THAT, IF US REQUESTS INVESTIGATION OF PAK THROUGH SEVERAL CHANNELS, SUCH AS THE CONGRESS AND SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ROK WILL REQUEST THAT US COMBINE ALL INVESTIGATIONS UNDER DOJ.
2. TONGA ARTICLE SECONDS ALL ABOVE, ADDING THAT PAUL MICHEL, PROSECUTOR FOR KOREAN LOBBYING AFFAIRS, WILL ACCOMPANY AAG CIVILETTI. STORY ALSO QUOTES "OBSERVERS" AS SPECULATING THAT, IF DOJ INVESTIGATORS DO AGREE TO QUESTION PAK IN SEOUL, THEY MAY THEN PRESS FOR EXCLUSIVE SESSIONS WITH PAK, WHEREAS ROK POSITION IS IT WILL ALLOW ONLY "INTERROGATION BY REQUEST". (COMMENT: LATTER TERM APPEARS TO MEAN DOJ INVESTIGATORS WOULD GIVE QUESTIONS THEY WANTED ASKED TO ROK INTER-ROGATORS, WHO WOULD QUESTION PAK.)
3. OTHER PAPERS' VERSIONS ALL DIFFER SLIGHTLY, AND

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ARE LESS COMPREHENSIVE. MINOR SINA ILBO SAYS CIVILETTI AND MICHEL WILL COME "SOMETIME NEXT WEEK", AND FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED FROM US AROUND THIS WEEKEND. INDEPENDENT CHUNGANG ILBO SAYS THEY WILL COME "AROUND OCTOBER 13TH" AND WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ROK REPRESENTATIVES, TO INCLUDE YI CHONG-WON, VICE MINISTER OF JUSTICE; HO HYONG-GU, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF PROSECUTION; MOJ; AND KIM TU-HUI, CHIEF, SECOND PROSECUTION DIVISION, MOJ. SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONGYANG SINUMUM, IN ORIENT PRESS ITEM FROM UN HEADQUARTERS, QUOTES FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN AS FEELING PERSONALLY THAT DOJ INVESTIGATORS WILL GO TO SEOUL "NEXT WEEK".

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4. EMBASSY HAS STRONGLY PROTESTED TO ROKG VIOLATION OF UNDERSTANDING THIS MATTER WOULD BE COORDINATED PRIOR TO ANY PRESS COVERAGE.

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